

REMARKS

Claims 1-42 are pending and stand rejected.

The Office Action objects to the title of the invention as not descriptive and suggests that the title be changed to "Performing SQL Query Optimization by Simplifying Sub-Expressions." The suggested title is acceptable to Applicant.

The Office Action rebuts an argument that Applicant purportedly made, arguing that Paulley (U.S. Patent No. 6,665,664) generates sub-expressions. That, however, is not the argument that Applicant made. Applicant does not dispute that Paulley mentions sub-expressions. The excerpt from Paulley that the Office Action recites:

The present invention repeatedly generates prime implicates of disjunctive sub-expressions nested within a conjunctive expression, thereby normalizing the search condition piece-by-piece. Col. 13, lines 3-7.

does not teach or suggest, as required by claims 1, 15, and 29, reducing an expression that has a form selected from the group consisting of "SE+0," "SE*1," and "SE/1," where SE is a sub-expression, to SE. The Office Action does not does identify where Paulley even mentions such sub-expressions.

In addition, the Office Action argues that "SE+0," "SE*1," and "SE/1" are tautologies. Using the Office Action's definition of tautology as "a statement that is always true," Office Action at 13, it is clear that those expressions are not tautologies. For example, if SE evaluates to "false," all of the expressions would also evaluate to false, and would not, under the Office Action's definition, be tautologies.

The Office Action may be arguing that the following expressions are tautologies:

$$SE+0 = SE$$

$$SE*1 = SE$$

$$SE/1 = SE$$

However, those expressions are not included in claims 1, 15, and 29. Therefore, Paulley does not teach or suggest reducing an expression that has a form selected from the group consisting of “SE+0,” “SE*1,” and “SE/1,” where SE is a sub-expression, to SE, as required by claims 1, 15, and 29.

Further, reducing an expression that has a form selected from the group consisting of “SE+0,” “SE*1,” and “SE/1,” where SE is a sub-expression, to SE is not the same thing as folding constant expressions when the expressions contain integers (e.g., $x=3+4$ being changed to $x=7$), as suggested in the Office Action. See, e.g., Office Action at pgs. 3 and 4. The Office Action may be arguing that Paulley teaches reducing expressions such as:

$$SE = 0$$

$$SE = 1$$

Those are not, however, the expressions included in claims 1, 15, and 29.

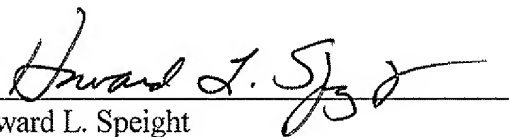
Consequently, claims 1, 15, and 29 are patentable over Paulley. The remaining claims depend from one of claims 1, 15, and 29 and are patentable for at least the same reasons.

Applicant respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

SUMMARY

Applicant contends that the claims are in condition for allowance, which action is requested. Applicant does not believe any fees are necessary with the submitting of this response. Should any fees be required, Applicant requests that the fees be debited from deposit account number 14-0225, Order Number 11466.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Howard L. Speight", is written over a horizontal line.

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Date: March 23, 2007